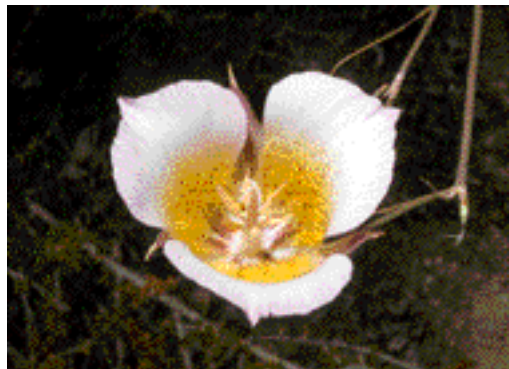


# AHMANSON RANCH

*A Critical Acquisition for the Southern California Mediterranean Ecosystem*



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA • THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
Gray Davis, Governor • Mary D. Nichols, Secretary for Resources

# Ahmanson Ranch Overview

## **Ahmanson Ranch—Essential to the Viability of a California Mediterranean Ecosystem**

The Santa Susana Mountains, the Simi Hills and the Santa Monica Mountains extend southward in a chain from the 10,000-square-mile Los Padres and Angeles National Forest ecosystems. These national forest lands contain large wildlife populations to replenish smaller populations in each of these three ranges. State, Federal, and local agencies have so far invested over \$500 million to protect both the core wilderness habitats within, and the wildlife corridors between, these unique urban adjacent mountain ranges.

In spite of this public investment, minimum viable population analyses unassailably lead to the conclusion that the ecological viability of the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains is dependent on total protection of the 2,783-acre Ahmanson Ranch (Ranch) in the Simi Hills. The Ranch's habitat resources are essential to maintain the large mammal, raptor, reptile, and amphibian species diversity in the Simi Hills. The Ranch habitat is also fundamental to providing sufficient wildlife movement capability into the Santa Monica Mountains. The ultimate land use on the Ranch will thus directly determine the ecological viability of the best example of a Mediterranean ecosystem in the National Park System, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

## **Prime Raptor Habitat, Endangered Species, Valley Oak Savannah**

The Ranch's resources include 2,723 acres of raptor habitat with Statewide significance, 3,885 valley and coast live oak trees, one of three remaining southern California Federally threatened California red-legged frog populations, and one of two known populations of the recently rediscovered San Fernando Valley spineflower (State listed endangered).

